

## Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

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SAJ-01 /086 W

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O R 131135Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7073

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 3699

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, US

SUBJ: WASHINGTON-BASED ISRELI CORRESPONDENTS

REPORT ON RABIN-FORD MEETINGS

1. SUMMARY: IN ADDITION TO EXTENSIVE STRAIGHT COVERAGE OF RABIN'S MEETING IN WASHINGTON, AND PRESS CONFERENCES BASED CORRESPONDENTS JUNE 13 STRESSED ISRAELI POSITION THAT FURTHER CONCESSION FROM EGYPT ARE REQUIRED TO CONCLUDE INTERIM SETTLEMENT. PROSPECTS FOR OAOVERALL SETTLEMENT APPEAR REMOTE. ISRAEL DID NOT RECEIVE PROMISES CONCERNING AID, WICH MAY BE LINKED TO POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. HAARITZ (MARGALIT) REPORTED THAT RABIN IS LEAVING WITH THE FEELING THAT AFTER ALL THE DOMSDAY PROPHECIES OF A RESUMPTION OF THE WAR HAVE PROVED UNFOUNDED, THE AMERICANS ARE SHOWING SOME UNDERSTANDING FOR THE ISRAELI POSITION. HE HAS OBTAINED NO PROMISES OF AID; THAT, HE HAS BEEN TOLD, WILL BE SETTLED UNCLASSIFIED

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AFTER THE PROSPECTS OF A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT HAVE BECOME CLEARER. HE HAS BEEN ABLE, IT IS BELIEVED, TO CONVEY ISRAEL'S VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND ON THE PROBLEM INVOLVED IN AN OVEALL SETTLEMENT TO PRESIDENT

FORD.

3. ACCORDING TO MARGALIT, RABIN STRESSED THAT UNLESS EGYPT CHANGES ITS POSITION, ISRAEL WILL NOT. IT IS THOUGHT THAT HE HAS NOT HEARD FROM DR. KISSINGER ABOUT SUCH A CHANGE, THOUGH HE HAS BEEN ASSURED THAT EGYPT IS PREPARED FOR IT. HE IS SAID TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE US, IN ITS MEDIATOR ROLE, PREFERS AT THIS POINT NOT TO CONVEY ALL THE CONCESSIONS CAIRO IS PREPARED TO MAKE, BUT, IT IS BELIEVED IN WASHINGTON, HE THINKS THE ADMINISTRATION SHOWS UNDERSTANDING FOR ISRAEL'S INSISTENCE ON A CHANGE OF EGYPT'S ATTITUDE AS A CONDITION OF AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT.

4. RABIN, MARGALIT WROTE, HAS ALSO BEEN TOLD OF A CHANGE OF US POLITICAL STRATEGY WHICH IS REFLECTED IN THE WISH TO INCREASE AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN CAIRO, DAMASCUS AND BAGDAD--AN AIM WHICH WASHINGTON BELIEVES IT PURSUES WITH SOME SUCCESS.

5. THE EVALUATION IN WASHINGTON, ACCORDING TO MARGALIT, IS THAT RABIN HAS BECOME CONVINCED THAT THERE WILL BE NO MAJOR CHANGE IN US-ISRAEL RELATIONS, BUT THAT CONSIDERABLE DISAGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY IF NO INTERIM SETTLEMENT IS ACHIEVED AND THE DISCUSSION SHIFTS TO AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT. THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF TOLD RABIN THAT HE CANNOT MAKE UP HIS MIND WHETHER TO GO FOR AN OVERALL OR AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT. AS FOR THE LATTER, RABIN WAS NOT LEFT WITH A CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT IT WOULD INDEED BE ACHIEVED.

6. ON AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT, MARGALIT NOTED THAT RABIN CONCENTRATED ON THE QUESTION OF DURATION. HE STILL HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN DETAILED IDEAS ABOUT EGYPT'S FLEXIBILITY IN THIS RESPECT, SO THAT IT IS DOUBTED WHETHER HE IS COMING HOME WITH A RECOMMENDATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT ADOPT NEW DECISIONS. AT THE MOMENT, HE PREFERS TO WAIT FOR FURTHER EXPLORATIONS OF THE SITUATION BY WASHINGTON, UNCLASSIFIED

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KNOWING THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AT THIS STAGE IS NOT EXPECTING AN IMMEDIATE ISRAELI ANSWER.

7 JULY 8-9 ARE THE DATES MARGALIT BELIEVED HAVE ALREADY BEEN CHOSEN FOR RESUMPTION OF KISSINGER SHUTTLE. MARGALIT CONCLUDED THAT IN THE WASHINGTON TALKS, NO CLEAR US PROMISE OF AID WAS OBTAINED ;  
THE SUBJECT WAS NOT DISCUSSED IN DETAIL. IT WAS UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER THAT IF THERE IS PROGRESS ON AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT, THE AID QUESTION WILL BE DISPOSED OF TO ISRAEL'S SATISFACTION.

8. ADAVAR (BARNEA) REPORTED THAT THE ISRAELI TEAM WAS

ENCOURAGED AFTER YESTERDAY'S MEETING WITH FORD. HE PRESIDENT WAS MORE RELAXED, LESS CRITICAL OF ISRAEL'S POSITION THAN AT THE START. RABIN EXPLAINED THE ISRAELI POSITION ON AN OVERALL AND AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT IN GREAT DETAIL, WITH THE AID OF MAPS. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED YESTERDAY THAT THE TALKS HAD PRODUCED UNDERSTANDING, BUT NOT NECESSARILY UNANIMITY.

9. ON AN INTERIM AGREEMENT, BARNEA REPORTED THAT THE QUESTION OF DURATION WAS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH, BUT THE EGYPTIAN VIEWS, AS REPORTED TO ISREL, WERE TOO CLOSE TO THOSE OF LAST MARCH TO BE REGARDED BY ISRAEL AS ACCEPTABLE. AMERICAN VIEWS ARE CLOSE TO, THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY IDENTICAL WITH THOSE OF ISRAEL ABOUT THE LACK OF PROSPECTS OF AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. ISRAEL ARGUED THAT THERE IS NO POINT IN MAKING GREAT EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A "COSMETIC" ISRAELI CONCESSION THERE, AS INSRAEEL IS NOT PREPARED TO MAKE MORE THAN A "COSMETIC" TERRITORIAL CONCESSION ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS.

10. YEDIOT (KIWITY) REPORTED THAT THE AMERICANS ARE CONVINCED THAT THEY WILL GET THE GO-AHEAD FROM SADAT TO START WITH INTENSIVE DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS, AS THEY HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED FROM RABIN. IF A BASE CAN BE FOUND FOR A KISSINGER VISIT IN ORDER TO BRIDGE THE RESIDUAL GAP, ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVES AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL WILL MEET SOMEWHERE TO DRAFT AND SIGN AN AGREEMENT.

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11. KIWITY SAID RABIN WENT ON RECORD AGAINST ARMS SUPPLIES TO EGYPT BUT IN FAVOR OF ECONOMIC AID, SAYING THAT HE PREFERS AMERICAN TO SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN EGYPT. HOWEVER, ALL THIS SHOULD NOT BE AT ISRAEL'S EXPENSE. IT WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR ISRAEL TO OBJECT TO AN AMERICAN INTEREST WITH WHICH THE ENTIRE US IDENTIFIED.

12. REPORTING IN MAARIV, SEGEV SAID RABIN IS CONVINCED HE HAS NOT YET RECEIVED ALL THE NECESSARY ANSWERS FROM SADAT, SO THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IS NOT REQUIRED TO CHANGE ITS BASIC ATTITUDE ON A FURTHER PARTIAL SETTLEMENT IN SINAI.

13. HE NOTED THAT VARIOUS SOURCES IN WASHINGTON CONFIRM THAT ALL THREE PARTIES BELIEVE THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH REMAINS THE BEST, AND ARE DETERMINED TO MAKE THE NECESSARY EFFORT TO ACHIEVE ANOTHER INTERIM SETTLEMENT. IF THE GROUND CAN BE CLEARED SUFFICIENTLY, KISSINGER MAY COME TO THE MIDDLE EAST LATE IN JULY OR EARLY IN AUGUST.

14. ON AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT SEGEV WROTE THAT RABIN'S

TALKS HAVE SHOWN THAT THE GAP BETWEEN US AND ISRAELI VIEWS IS VERY WIDE. FORD'S VIEWS ON ISRAEL'S FUTURE BORDERS INVOLVE AN ALMOST TOTAL WITHDRAWAL, WHILE RABIN MADE CLEAR THAT ISRAEL CANNOT LEAVE THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AND INSISTS ON A PRESENCE AT SHARM-EL-SHEIKH AND ON A UNITED JERUSALEM UNDER ISRAELI RULE.

15. REGARDING RABIN'S TALK WITH SCHLESINGER, SEGEV NOTED THAT IT WAS APPARENTLY MAINLY A MATTER OF COURTESY. IT IS FEARED THAT FOR THE MOMENT, THE LINK BETWEEN POLITICAL ISSUES AND MILITARY AID REMAINS, HE ADDED.

15. JERUSALEM POST (BLITZER) REPORTED WASHINGTON IS SAID TO BE HOLDING BACK SOME POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN MODIFICATIONS, PROBABLY BECAUSE IT FEARS POTENTIAL LEAK FROM ISRAEL. THE US WILL THEREFORE INFORM ISRAEL OF POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING OR THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.  
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## Message Attributes

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